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arrested from destruction and handed over to scientific investigation, with a promptness that does him credit, what remained to be obtained. The rocks had been taken out for the purpose of making the bed of a turnpike road, and the bones now in possession of the Academy consist of several vertebræ, parts of ribs and two imperfect teeth, which certainly place this animal among the *Saurians*.

To these remains, so fortunately preserved, Mr. Lea proposes to give a mature examination, and the Curators have placed them under his charge for that purpose. When prepared, a description and figures of the important portions of these bones will be submitted by him for publication in the Journal of the Academy.

Mr. Lea thought it better to adopt a specific name without delay, but deemed it advisable to postpone a generic one, until a further examination shall prove the diagnosis, and then apply a descriptive one. He proposes *Pennsylvanicus* as the specific name.

On leave granted, a memorial to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, praying for the passage of an act authorizing the completion and publication of the final report of the Geological Survey of the State, was presented and read. On motion, the same was adopted, and a copy signed by the officers of the Academy was ordered to be transmitted to the Legislature now in session.

April 15th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Royal Leopoldine Carolinian Academy of Naturalists, dated Breslau, Jan. 21st, 1851, acknowledging the receipt of late Nos. of the Proceedings.

A letter was read from J. S. Gossler, Esq., dated Harrisburg, April 11th, 1851, acknowledging the receipt of the memorial addressed to the Legislature by the Academy on the subject of the State Geological Survey; also another from the same, dated April 12th, 1851, announcing the passage of the law by both Houses authorizing the publication of the Report.

Dr. Leidy presented, for the inspection of the members, a fossil Tortoise from Nebraska Territory, received through Prof. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution. The specimen consisted of four-fifths of the carapace and plastron, the former considerably crushed. In general form it is like the genus *Emys*. It has been about 7 inches in length, and about $5\frac{3}{4}$ in breadth; its height is about $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. An interval of one-eighth of an inch between the costal and marginal plates has been filled with cartilage. The union in the middle line of the sternum from behind to the ento-sternal bone has also been cartilaginous. The outer extremities of the costal plates are alternately broad and narrow as in *Testudo*. The most remarkable peculiarity of the animal has been the possession of four accessory bones, which do not exist in other genera. These bones give additional support to the carapace. Two are placed anterior to the attachment of the sternum to the marginal plates, and two posterior. The anterior are nearly straight

and quadrilateral, and pass, one upon each side, from the antero-external angle of the hypo-sternal bone obliquely upwards and inwards to a depression about the middle of the outer margin of the first costal plate. The posterior columns of support have nearly the same form as the anterior, and pass from the postero-external angle of the hypo-sternal bone upwards, backwards and a little inwards to a depression formed at the junction of the fifth and sixth costal plates. Dr. L. gave to this fossil the generic and specific name of *Stylemys* nebrascensis*.

April 22d.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from Mr. John Hooper, Secretary of the Brooklyn Institute, dated New York, Feb. 17th, 1851, accompanying a beautiful collection of native Algæ, (42 species,) presented by him to the Academy, and offering to contribute further if desirable.

Mr. Cassin read a paper, intended for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Notes of an Examination of the Birds composing the family Caprimulgidæ in the collection of the Acad. Nat. Sciences;" which was referred to Dr. Wilson, Dr. Watson, and Dr. Ruschenberger.

Dr. Leidy called the attention of the members to two fossil Tortoises from Nebraska Territory, received through Professor Baird.

One of them consists of a great portion of the carapace and sternum broken into two fragments. It belongs to the genus *Testudo*. Its length has been about 2 feet, the breadth is 20 inches, and the height 9 inches. The bones are thick and strong. The species Dr. L. named *Testudo lata*.

The second specimen consists of four-fifths of the sternum and about one-third of the carapax. In its perfect state it has been about $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, $7\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, and about $5\frac{1}{2}$ high. The carapace is very convex. The costal plates are alternately narrow and broad at their outer extremity, and have been united to the marginal plates by cartilage. The latter rise at first a little convex from the sternum, but are afterwards vertical. The species Dr. L. named *Emys hemispherica*.

Mr. Isaac Lea, referring to his late communication to the Academy on the subject of fossil bones in the collection from the new red sandstone, stated that since then he had received the Proceedings of the Boston Natural History Society, which contained a paper by Mr. Welles, read in December last, noticing the fact that fossil bones of large vertebrate animals had been found in two instances in the red sandstone of Connecticut valley. Mr. Lee said that this was the first notice he had met with of the discovery of bones of this character in this formation.

Dr. Morton offered some remarks on the infrequency of mixed offspring between the European and Australian races.

The singular paucity of half-caste or mulatto children in New Holland, has been remarked ever since that country was first colonized by Europeans. Of

* *στυλος*; *εμυς*.